(b) whether the plan includes expansion of their activities or off loading of their Stakes ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Fleet renewel plans for Air India and Indian Airlines have been approved to enable them have younger and modern fleet to improve their operational efficiency and customer appeal. It is also proposed to restructure Air India and Indian Airlines for which a Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The proposed restructuring is intended to facilitate expansion of their activities; no disinvestment of existing Government equity funds in these Corporation is envisaged.

The India Tourism Development Corporation, in its VIII Five Year Plan, has included joint sector projects, expansion of duty free shop business, consultancy and management services for tourism related projects.

Development of tourism for low income group tourists

1150. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan for development of tourism for low income group tourists in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Development of Tourism assists State Governments for setting up of infrastructural facilities, such as, Yatri Niwas, Yatrikas, Pilgrim sheds and tented accommodation, for low income and other categories of domestic tourists.

I.T.D.C. Offices in Foreign Countries

1151. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to review and upgrade Indian Tourism Offices in foreign countries as one of the major steps to promote and boost tourist traffic in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of fresh infrastructural facilities proposed to be provided; and

(d) what other new facilities and incentives are being offered to travel agents and foreign tourists for promotion of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Review of Tourist Offices abroad is a continuous process with a view to promoting tourist traffic to the country. Recently tourist office has been opened at Dubai is being upgraded while a new office is proposed to be opened at Seoul.

(c) 15 circuits and destinations have been identified in the National Action Plan for Tourism for intensive development of Tourist infrastructure.

(d) Among other measures, rules and procedures for recognition of travel agents and tour operators have been liberalised, Government have reduced the customs duty for import of cars and coaches for the travel industry and import duty on adventure sports equipment as well as golf equipments has been reduced.

वायु मार्ग से जोड़े गये महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ स्थल

1152. **श्री विश्वास राव राजराव पाटिल:** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ स्थलों को वायु मार्ग से जोड़ने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन तीर्थ स्थलों का ब्योरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र में शिर्डी में एक विमानपत्तन का निर्माण किए जाने के लिए भूमि उपलब्ध करायी है ;